

# Endurance

## I. Introduction

- A. Christians have need of endurance. **Hebrews 10:36**
- B. This word involves “steadfastness, constancy, endurance...in the NT the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings” (*Thayer – G5281*).
- C. Developing endurance demands deliberate, diligent pursuit of this attribute. **2 Peter 1:5-6**

## II. Through Fiery Trials

- A. The enduring constancy in well-doing God expects of us is particularly key when faced with fiery trials. **Romans 12:12**
- B. Job’s trials, and God’s expectations of him, demonstrate the need to do what’s right even through the harshest of circumstances. **James 5:7-8**

## III. Through Temptations

- A. In 1 Corinthians 10:13, the apostle Paul spoke about our need to endure any temptation without giving into sin. The verse emphasizes the reality of temptation for everyone, but also the faithfulness of God that assures there will be a way of escape, so that we can always *choose* to do what’s right. **1 Corinthians 10:13; James 4:7**

## IV. By Looking to Our Cloud of Witnesses

- A. Strength through trials and temptations is helped by looking to others who have faithfully endured. The “cloud of witnesses” of Hebrews 11 are spoken about in a context that emphasizes the need for endurance. **Hebrews 12:1; 11:32-36**

## V. By Looking to Jesus

- A. After referencing the Christian’s “cloud of witnesses,” the inspired writer emphasizes the greatest example of enduring faithfully. Jesus faced trials as great as one can imagine, yet never excused Himself from doing what’s right. **Hebrews 12:2-3; 1 Peter 2:21-23**

## VI. Grounded in Faith

- A. Hebrews 11 shows that the foundation of the endurance God demands of us is faith. The Christian is able to faithfully endure fiery trials because we see, by faith, more than the “here and now.” **Hebrews 11:1; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18**

## VII. Anchored by Hope

- A. This foresight ties in with something else that is connected to endurance – the Christian’s hope. Endurance is anchored by looking to the Lord’s promise of the Day of Judgment, and what will become reality for the righteous at that time. **James 5:7-8; 2 Timothy 4:8**

## VIII. Remembering What Matters

- A. No matter our temporal circumstances, enduring faithfully is possible by focusing on what is eternally significant. The faithful Christian purposes to obey God’s will through everything, recognizing that this is what matters most in life. **Matthew 6:33; Romans 8:28**